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THE OBSERVATOR.

A Country-man's Selling Hogs for the Queens Service. Of a Notorious Buyer of Hogs for the Victualling-Office. Of the Abuses Committed there; with a Certificate about it.

From Saturday March the 18th, to Wednesday March the 22d, 1704.

HOneſt *Country-man*, what News haſt thou now brought? For I ſee you have been Abroad.

ntry-m. Only at Market, what News ſhould e there?

f. Country News for a Country-man; what ou Sell there?

ntry-m. I Sold a Score of brave Fat Hogs.

f. Well, and who Bought your Hogs?

ntry-m. A very Honeſt Fellow, I believe; for he had Bought them he wou'd give me a of *Sack-Wine*; and when we began to drink, nk a Health to my Queen, and ſaid, *The e had Bought were for Her Majeſties Uſe:* I ne- new they us'd ſo much *Pork* at Court before.

f. Why, it could not be for the Court, if it *Pork*, Man; they don't Eat *Pork*; it muſt be he Fleet.

ntry-m. No, no, I am ſatisfied it could not or the Fleet, for I us'd to deal with a Man, what de call him, the firſt Letter of his Name n with a *B*——, and he us'd to Buy Hogs he Fleet, and he would Buy any ſorry Lean zled Hogs, ſo he had them but Cheap; but Man would Buy none but the beſt he could his Hands on; therefore I am ſure this was for the Fleet.

f. Well, well, it was for the Fleet for all that; tho' 'twas not ſo uſual to be very Nice in their ing before; yet may be the Caſe may be al- ; or this is ſome new Broom that Sweeps n, and is not yet got into the Trick; he has Learnt the Art of buying Cheap, and char- Dear; buying Meazled Hogs for ſound Ones, a Hundred Thouſand Tricks and Cheats the *ualling-Office* has been full of.

ntry-m. Oh, this is a very Honeſt Man, I'll n my Life for him; my Neighbour, Old *phry*, had a parcel of Hogs at Market with e; and he would not Buy one of them; he ſaid were not Fat enough, nor he did not like the ks of them; he ſaid he would Buy none but very beſt, 'twas for the Queens Service, and would have the beſt, ſo that I preſently thought muſt needs be for the Queens own Eating.

f. No, no, Honeſt *Country-man*, Princes don't as You and I do: I tell thee, this was for the et; it muſt be for the Fleet.

ntry-m. It can't be, I tell you again, he that l to Buy for the Fleet, I know him well enough, would Buy any thing of a Hog that would but d driving. He was a ſad Swearing Fellow, and n a Neighbour of mine ask'd him once *What could do with ſuch Lean Hogs, that were meer rion? Damn 'em*, ſays he, *they are good enough them that are to Eat them.* Eat 'em, ſays my end, why they can never Eat 'em: *Let 'em Faſt be Damn'd*, ſays he, *they don't deſerve what they for they do nothing.*

f. This was a brave Fellow indeed, and this ne way then our Sailors have been Mortify'd.

ntry-m. My Neighbour told him ſo once e Hogs, ſays he, *will Poiſon the Seamen, for they never fit for Mans Meat.*

Damn the Seamen, ſays the Fellow again; *what Care I if they were all Poiſon'd, ſo I am Paid for my Hogs?*

Obſ. Ay, this is the Grievance that has ſo often been attempted in vain to be Redreſs'd; this is what Mr. *Charles Hore* prov'd by Affidavits to the Satisfaction of the Lords appointed to Examine into it, tho he could never prevail either to bring the Guilty People to a Fair Tryal, or ſo much as to have them diſmiſt from the Power of doing the ſame over again.

Country-m. I don't know who is in the Employment, nor who is out, but that Damning Swearing Fellow don't Buy Hogs as he us'd to do; I never ſee him in the Market now-a-Days; and this is an Honeſt Fellow, and Loves my Queen.

Obſ. I ſhould be glad to hear none but ſuch as he were Employ'd, and then there would not be ſuch a Mortality among our Seamen, nor ſo many Widows and Fatherleſs at the *Pay-Office*.

Country-m. But can it be prov'd that they us'd to Kill bad Proviſions?

Obſ. Honeſt *Country-man*, if all that has been done in that Office ſhould be known to the World, every Honeſt Man would ſtand amaz'd to think ſuch Practices ſhould be crept into a Chriſtian Nation; and for my part I care not to Publiſh them, leſt it ſhould Diſcourage the Sailors from Entering into the Service of their Country, and leſt in a Popular Fury they ſhould ſometime or other pull the Houſe down about their Ears.

Country-m. But it might be told their Maſters that Employ them, for it may be they don't know it; and if they don't know it, they are not to be Blam'd.

Obſ. They have not only been told of it, but they have had Affidavits made of it by Eye-Witneſſes, which Affidavits have been Printed, the Book is to be ſeen every Day.

Country-m. And have they Sworn to ſuch things as you talk of, as to their Cheating the Seamen?

Obſ. They have made Oath to the Killing *Meazled Hogs* in great Multitudes, they have made Oath that they have Salted and Pickled Hogs brought Dead into the Slaughter-Houſe, they have Sworn to the Salting and Packing up of Hogs that have ſtunk ſo that the Workmen could hardly bear to hold their Heads over them; they have made Oath to the Embezelments of the Wholeſome Meat, and to the very Perſons who have taken 4 5 and 8 Meſs-Pieces at a Time, and carry'd them away to their own Houſes, after weighed to the Queens Stores, and this of the beſt of the Meat.

Country-m. Theſe are ſtrange things, if they are True.

Obſ. Look you, Honeſt *Country-man*, if you'll Read that Book you will ſee ſeveral Affidavits of the Truth; the Book is Entituled, *A True and Exact Account of many great Abuſes Committed in the Victualling Her Majeſties Navy, as appears by the Informations and Depoſitions of ſeveral Witneſſes. Publiſhed for the Information of the Parliament and the Publick.*

Country-m. Pray Read one of them to me, that

you

you think is most to the purpose, for I han't got my Spectacles here; I left them in our great Book of *Martyrs*, where you and I was Reading, at the Story of Q. *Elizabeths* being in Trouble for her Religion.

Obs. Well, I'll venture to Read you one, and give you a Copy of it; that you may show it the next Time you go to Market.

Middlesex *and* Westminster.

The Information of Thomas Mattocks, *at the* White-Lyon *on* Little Tower-Hill, *in the Parish of* Aldgate, London; *taken upon Oath before me* Richard Rider, *one of Her Majesties Justices of the Peace for the said County and Liberty.*

Sweareth,

THAT *from about the beginning of* October *last, till the seventeenth Day of* Decem. *following, this Informant was employ'd as a Salter in the Cutting-House, in the* Victualling-Office *upon* Tower-Hill. *In which time this Informant deposeth there were several meazled Hogs, and stinking Hogs, cut, salted, and packt up for Her Majesty's Service at Sea; which said Hogs, were cut up by* Thomas Dadly, *and* John Footing, *Salted and packt up by several others. And that the best parts of several wholesome Hogs and Oxen were taken away, and the Remaining part was cut and packt up for the Sea-Service, which said best parts, at several times, were carry'd away by* John Bull, *and* John Hoskins, *Salters, and* George Price, *an Helper to the said Salters,* Thomas Winfield, William Ravenscroft, *and* Paul Dewy, *Butchers, and* Randal Rench *another Salter.*

And this Informant further deposeth, That betwixt the Sixtesnth of July *last, and the beginning of* October *following, one* Jeremiah Eaton *came in the Name of* William Wright, *Esq; one of the present Commissioners for Victualling Her Majesty's* Navy, *for four Mess-pieces of Beef, and four Mess-pieces of Pork, which were delivered to him, and he carry'd them away; all which pieces aforesaid, were taken away after they were weighed to the Queen.* Subscribed,

Jurat. 10. die *Feb.* 1702.

Coram me *Rich. Rider.* *Tho. Mattocks.*

Vera Copia.

Country-m. Od Zooks Man, why these Folks should be hang'd; this is *Robbery, Murther, Poisoning*, and every thing: Pray, Master *Observator*, what is the Punishment for *Poisoning*.

Obs. All our Punishments in Criminal Cases, generally *Center* at the *Gallows*; but by an Old Law in *England*, *Poisoning* was Punishable by Boiling in *Oyl*.

Country-m. Aye, *Boyl* 'em; *Oyl* them! These Rogues are the worst that ever I heard of; I never thought there had been such Villains alive:

Obs. Patience, the *Gallows* is enough; Eternity Answers all several kinds of *Death*.

Country-m. But, Pray, Master *Observator*, what was done with these Affidavits, was not the People Punish'd as they deserv'd?

Obs. No, no, the matter was stifled; Mr. *Hore*, the Discoverer, Discouraged, and three Months past before he could get a Survey; till the Guilty had time to carry off all the bad Provisions. The Men continued in the Employment, and for ought I know, may be there still; *Malitious Prosecutions* begun against the Evidence; and Mr. *Hore*, who Prosecuted it, Bully'd and Threatned by some of the People Guilty, to have his Ears cut off.

Country-m. This is very hard.

Obs. Well, however all may in time come out; for it has now been laid open again before the *House of Lords*; and their Lordships have re That Mr. *Hore*, and the rest of the Witnesse fully made out, and prov'd the Allegations Abuses thus Practic'd.

Country-m. I am glad of that; sure the Hang'd, won't they?

Obs. I can't tell their Fate, I only wi like may be prevented for the future; and t Punishment of Offenders, I leave that wi should be left, to the Publick Justice of the N

Country-m. I wou'd some of them were l my Justice, I thou'd Sentence them to the pline of the Oaken Towel, I mean those tha ried away the Queens Roast-Meat, the Mess-

Obs. Well, I see you wou'd not Hang the

Country-m. I don't know but they had as be Hang'd, as to pass under the Correction I li give them: These are such Rogues as you to of before, about *Iron-Cabbages*; these are Fello find, that make *Beef-Cabbages* and *Pork-Cab* I warrant ye those Rogues did not carry a the Meazled Stinking Pork, did they?

Obs. No, no, they are *Knaves* enough I be but we should wrong them if we should take for Fools, the Affidavit Remarks that in p cular, *That the best parts of several wholesome and Hogs were taken away*; the rest, I suppose, m be no more worth their Stealing, than it fit for the Sailors Eating.

Country-m. Well, if e'er I live to come to *Coffee-House* there by the Gate on *Tower-Hill* ag where I told you they were railing so at I'll ask there where I thought they gave a the Marrow Bones, if they can help me to *Beef-Cabbages*, or *Pork-Cabbage*.

Obs. You had has good ask for *Bell-Sw* at *South-Mims*, beyond *Barnet*; you'll certa raise the Parish upon your Back; the *Knaves* agree to call thee *Knave*.

Country-m. Let me alone for that, I'll carry *Oaken Towel* with me.

Obs. Let thee alone; Prithee they can raise *Posse* among the Men of Meal and Salt, the kers and the Butchers, they'l certainly Pickle up for *Meazled Hog*, or thro' thee into the C and Bake thee for a *Sea Biscket*.

Country-m. Then I shall be *Crusty Enough*, y say, and so I am already. Well, I'll venture th for I'll certainly tell them their Own.

Obs. You'l get nothing by that.

Country-m. I shall get as much by that, as get by This.

Obs. That you may soon do indeed; I get thing by it but ill Language, hard Names; an think hard Usage too. But if I serve my Count Warn Honest Men of their Danger; and De Knaves; I have my Reward; I ask no more.

Country-m. Then you are a Fool.

Obs. Well, a Useful Fool still, *Country-man*; Remember the Story, such a Fool I am Cont to be; and such a Fool may be as good in Generation as a Wise Man: And so much Fool.

Country-m. But I hope you han't done with t Knaves too.

Obs. It may be not; nor they han't done wi me neither; for I hear I am to be us'd like a D if ever I fall in their Way.

Country-m. What if you come to that Coffe House you mean?

Obs. Thereabouts; but I am of the Mind I sh come to that Coffee-House when these *Cabbage-m kers* won't dare to show their Faces there.

Country-m. Pray God you may.——

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